

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 /059 W
-----016804 041048Z/10

O 041039Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7675
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (FUKUDA, TAKEO)
SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO FUKUDA VISIT

1. COVERAGE OF ALL ASPECTS FUKUDA VISIT HAS DOMINATED MEDIA NEWS FOR PAST TWO DAYS. ALL ACCOUNTS OF CARTER-FUKUDA TALKS STRESSED U.S. RECONFIRMATION OF ITS COMMITMENT TO ASIA AND INCREASED COOPERATION PLEDGED TO SETTLEMENT OF TRADE/PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. PRESS INTRIGUED BY LENGTH OF PRIVATE SESSION BETWEEN TWO LEADERS. OTHER MAIN STORIES INCLUDED STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNTS OF FUKUDA'S MEETING ON HILL, AND SONODA-VANCE, STRAUSS-USHIBA TALKS. SANKEI AMONG PAPERS HIGHLIGHTING INDICATION FROM PRESIDENT THAT HE ENCOURAGED JAPAN IN ITS EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE PFT WITH PEKING, NOTING ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE POSED NO OBSTACLE FOR U.S. PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION TO PRESIDENT TO VISIT JAPAN PROMINENTLY FEATURED.

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2. EVENING PAPERS MAY 4 CARRIED EXTENSIVE REPORTS OF FUKUDA'S PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING WASHINGTON MEETINGS, CARRYING ALMOST ENTIRE CONTENT OF JOINT PRESS GUIDANCE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, PM REPORTED AS SAYING COST-SHARING HAD NOT BEEN RAISED.

3. ACTING FONMIN AND CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ABE ISSUED

STATEMENT, ALSO CARRIED EVENING PRESS MAY 4, THAT PRE-BONN-SUMMIT COORDINATION OF VIEWS WAS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FROM STANDPOINT OF WORLD PEACE AND PROSPERITY. ABE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT AMERICA'S UNDERSTANDING OF JAPAN HAD BEEN DEEPENED AND THAT PM'S VISIT HAD ACHIEVED ITS AIMS. FOLLOWING SUMMIT CUSTOM, OPPOSITION-PARTY LEADERS SEVERALLY ISSUED STATEMENTS EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION THAT FUKUDA-CARTER TALKS HAD FAILED TO PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS, BUT NO INDICATION GIVEN AS TO WHAT "CONCRETE RESULTS" SHOULD HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING. SOME OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN ALSO DECRINED SENATOR LONG'S REPORTED REMARKS ON JAPANESE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

4. INITIAL MOFA REACTION, REFLECTING TELEPHONE CALLS FROM MEMBERS OF PARTY, WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE, PARTICULAR SATISFACTION BEING EXPRESSED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL SESSIONS AND GENERALLY STATESMANLIKE QUALITY OF DISCUSSION THAT TOOK PLACE. MOFA OFFICIALS WERE PLEASED WITH GOOD RAPPORT ALL AROUND AND ABSENCE OF SURPRISES. FIRST SPATE OF EDITORIAL COMMENT, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING REACTION TO FUKUDA'S NEW YORK SPEECH, JUST NOW BEING RELEASED ON EMBARGO, WILL NOT APPEAR UNTIL MAY 5. SHERMAN

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